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(54) **VEHICLE ORIENTATION DETECTION METHOD AND VEHICLE ORIENTATION DETECTION APPARATUS**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC ..... 701/468; 342/357.59; 702/150

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In this vehicle orientation detection method detecting the orientation of a vehicle on the basis of measurement data obtained at prescribed time intervals, as long as a speed sensed by a vehicle speed sensor is less than a threshold speed, the vehicle orientation is detected on the basis of a yaw rate sensed by a yaw rate sensor. If the speed detected by the vehicle speed sensor is greater than or equal to the threshold speed, a drift determination is performed. If not determined to be in a drift state, the vehicle orientation is detected on the basis of signals received by a GPS receiver, and if determined to be in a drift state, the vehicle orientation is detected on the basis of the yaw rate sensed by the yaw rate sensor.

**8 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**

HEADING CALCULATION PROCESS

